

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00221 071909Z
ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 NEA-10 ISO-00 EUR-12 IO-13 SSM-03 ACDA-07
CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05
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R 070812Z MAR 77
FM AMEMBASSY MAPUTO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5546
INFO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
AMEMBASSY MOGADISCIO
AMEMBASSY JIDDA
AMEMBASSY CAIRO
USUN NEW YORK 626

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E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, MZ, ET, SF, SU, FT
SUBJECT: SITUATION IN NORTHEAST AFRICA-THE MOZAMBIQUE PERSPECTIVE

REF: STATE 34960

1. OFFICIALS IN MOZAMBIQUE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
ARE NOT AS A RULE VERY FORTHCOMING ON GPRM ATTITUDES ON FOREIGN
POLICY ISSUES. EMBASSY'S APPRECIATION OF GPRM'S VIEWS ON THE
SITUATION IN THE HORN OF AFRICA IS AS FOLLOWS:

2. GPRM'S PRINCIPAL FOREIGN POLICY CONCERN IS THE SITUATION
IN SOUTHERN AFRICA. EVENTS IN THE HORN OF AFRICA AND RELATIONS
BETWEEN THE AFRICANS AND THE ARABS ARE OF SECONDARY INTEREST.
THIS IS REFLECTED IN THE PRESS. COVERAGE ON THE HORN
IN THE GPRM-CONTROLED MEDIA IS MINIMAL.

3. GPRM SUPPORT FOR SOMALIA. ALTHOUGH THE GPRM WOULD PREFER
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PAGE 02 MAPUTO 00221 071909Z

NOT GET INVOLVED IN ISSUES AFFECTING THE HORN, IF IT CAME
TO CHLOSSING SIDES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND SOMALIA, IT WOULD
ALIGN ITSELF WITH SOMALIA, PARTICULARLY ON QUESTION
DJIBOUTI. SINCE MOZAMBIQUE'S INDEPENDENCE, THE GPRM
HAS ESTABLISHED CLOSE TIES WITH THE REVOLUTIONARY
GOVERNMENT IN SOMALIA, WHICH IT CONSIDERS A "NATURAL
ALLY." SOMALIA WAS ONE OF THE FIRST STATES TO ESTABLISH

DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH GPRM AND PRESIDENT MACHEL AND PRESIDENT SAID BARRE HAVE MET IN SMALL GATHERINGS ON AT LEAST TWO OCCASIONS TO DISCUSS ISSUES OF SOUTHERN AFRICA AND PERHAPS THE HORN. THE GPRM'S RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIAN GOVERNMENT, DESPITE LATTER'S MARXIST ORIENTATION AND A RECENT THREE DAY VISIT TO MAPUTO BY A MEMBER OF THE REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, ARE NOT NEARLY AS GOOD AS THOSE WITH SOMALIA. THE GPRM, HOWEVER, HAS REFRAINED FROM EXPRESSING ANY SUPPORT FOR ELF SECESSIONISTS. ON ISSUES BETWEEN ETHIOPIA AND THE SUDAN, THE GPRM WOULD PROBABLY SIDE WITH ETHIOPIA. CONTACTS BETWEEN SUDANESE AND MOZAMBIQUE GOVERNMENTS HAVE BEEN ALMOST NON-EXISTENT SINCE FRELIMO TOOK POWER.

4. AFRICANS VA. ARABAS OR CHRISTIAN VS. MOSLEM. THE GPRM DOES NOT VIEW FOREIGN POLICY ISSUES ALONG AFRICAN VS ARAB OR CHRISTIAN VS. MOSLEM LINES. FOR THE GPRM, A GOVERNMENT'S ADHERENCE TO REVOLUTIONARY PRINCIPLES IS MORE IMPORTANT THAN THE ETHNIC BACKGROUND OR RELIGIOUS AFFILIATION OF ITS LEADERS. IN SELECTING ITS FRIENDS, THE GPRM'S MAIN PRE-OCCUPATION IS WHETHER A COUNTRY IS ALIGNED WITH THE SOCIALIST OR COMMUNIST STATES OR WHETHER IT IS IN THE CAPITALIST CAMP.

5. TRANSFER OF THE OAU CAPITAL FROM ETHIOPIA. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE, NO GPRM LEADERS HAVE ADVOCATED SHIFTING OAU HEADQUARTERS FROM ADDIS. WE DO NOT BELIEVE GPRM OFFICIALS WOULD ENDORSE SUCH A MOVE UNLESS IT ENJOYED THE SUPPORT OF A MAJORITY OF AFRICAN STATES.

6. U.S. RELATION WITH ETHIOPIA. AS FAR AS WE ARE AWARE,
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PAGE 03 MAPUTO 00221 071909Z

GPRM HAS NEVER EXPRESSED THEIR VIEWS ON U.S. RELATIONS WITH ETHIOPIA, PROBABLY BECAUSE IF IS NOT AWARE OF THE FULL EXTENT OF OUR RELATIONS WITH NEW ETHIOPIAN REGIME. HOWEVER, GPRM TAKES VERY CYNICAL ATTITUDE TOWARD U.S. OBJECTIVES THROUGHTOUT AFRICA AND WOULD PROBABLY FIND FAULT WITH ANY TYPE OF U.S. MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO ETHIOPAIN GOVERNMENT.

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